

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 03456 091836Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3456

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EXDIS

FOR ARA, L AND D ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

REF: LANDAU/PROPPER TELECON MAY 9

1. CHILEAN COURTS ARE CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION INTO CIRCUMSTANCES OF EXPULSION OF MICHAEL TOWNLEY FROM CHILE APRIL 8. REGIONAL LEGAL ATTACHE ROBERT SCHERER AND FBI AGENT CARTER CORNICK HAVE BEEN MENTIONED IN PRESS AS ACCOMPANYING TOWNLEY ON FLIGHT TO US, AND LAWYERS FOR TOWNLEY AND TOWNLEY'S WIFE HAVE SAID THEY SHOULD BE CALLED TO TESTIFY BEFORE INVESTIGATING JUDGE.

2. USG LAWYER ALFREDO ETCHEBERRY HAS DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH JUDGE CARMEN CANALES, AND WILL SEE HER AGAIN LATE AFTERNOON OF MAY 9. HE WILL SUGGEST THAT, IF TESTIMONY REQUIRED, IT BE DONE BY VOLUNTARY WRITTEN STATEMENT, SUBMITTED TO COURT. ALTERNATIVES ARE VOLUNTARY OR ORDERED COURT APPEARANCE.

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3. SCHERER, AS REGIONAL LEGAL ATTACHE, IS HOLDER OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT. WHILE NOT FORMALLY ACCREDITED TO CHILEAN GOVERNMENT, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING HE COULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY. IN ORDER TO PRESERVE SAME OPTION WITH RESPECT TO CARTER CORNICK I RECOMMEND STRONGLY THAT HE BE ISSUED DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT FOR ANY FUTURE VISITS TO CHILE IN CONNECTION WITH LETELIER/MOFFITT

ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION. SIMILARLY, ALTHOUGH ASSISTANT
US ATTORNEY PROPPER WAS NOT IN THE COUNTRY AT TIME OF
TOWNLEY EXPULSION, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISE TO EQUIP HIM
WITH A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT FOR FUTURE VISITS HERE.
LANDAU

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